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EDITORIAL COMMENT



LARGE ENDOWMENT FOR THE COURSE IN HOSPITAL ECONOMICS

WE open the new year with the glorious announcement that a large endowment has been given to Teachers' College, Columbia University, whereby under a new department of Nursing Education and Social Hygiene the course in Hospital Economics will be broadened and developed to include the preparation of trained nurses to be teachers of the science and art of hygiene, not only as school, tuberculosis, and social welfare workers, but also as sanitary experts, teachers at farmers' institutes, and instructors of mothers, both in country and city, in the care and training of children.

Mrs. Helen Hartley Jenkins, the donor of the gift, is one of the trustees of Teachers' College and is deeply interested in all of its workings, especially along those lines which pertain to preventive medicine and the improvement of the public health. Through this interest she has become familiar with the course in Hospital Economics maintained by the nurses of the country, and her gift provides largely for its development, as well as for the new courses mentioned. Mrs. Jenkins's gift was directed to the department of nursing through the influence of Miss Lillian D. Wald of the Henry Street Settlement.

The idea around which this new work is to be centred is that the social welfare nurse is, in all the different aspects of her work, a teacher as well as a worker, and that she needs special preparation as an instructor.

The gift is so recent that it is impossible to give in detail the lines upon which the work will be developed, but it will be under the direct supervision of Miss Nutting, who promises a fuller detail for the February JOURNAL.

Nurses of the country may congratulate themselves upon the splendid recognition which this endowment gives to their efforts in establishing

and maintaining for the past ten years the course in Hospital Economics. The contributions to this course have come in small sums from self-supporting women, most of whom could reap no personal advantage from its establishment but who have felt proud to help sustain an educational movement which was needed by the profession as a whole. Mrs. Jenkins's gift is the crowning of these unselfish efforts and gives recognition to the place which nurses have won in the world-wide movement for social welfare.

Our New Year message is that we continue to go forward with courage to stand for those things that we know are right, in the face of obstacles and criticism, knowing that ultimately justice will prevail.

WHERE DOES LOYALTY END?

UNDER this heading, "Where does Loyalty End?" we are printing this month three letters in which are involved principles of fair dealing to the patient and justice to the nurse. These letters are characteristic of many that come to our desk in the course of a year in which, accepting the facts as presented by the writers, the question is constantly brought to us, Where does the nurse's loyalty to the doctor end? and is she required to be untruthful or to practise deceit in order to uphold the reputation of a physician at her own expense or that of the patient?

We know we are treading upon dangerous ground when we approach this subject, but so frequently do we hear of cases where nurses have been subjected to unjust accusations, amounting almost to persecution, that we feel the time has come when the entire nursing profession must dispassionately consider this very vital point upon which the two professions come together.

Where the physician is a man of the highest character we hardly think this question can arise, but there are in the medical profession men whose moral and medical standards are of such a low order that they do not hesitate to make a scapegoat of the nurse to protect themselves against their own mistakes.

We believe the time has come when, through our state boards of examiners, there should be established what we will term a board of arbitration between the two professions. It would seem to us that the nurse board and the medical board of examiners of a state could properly enter into affiliation and constitute such a tribunal, which would serve not only to afford protection and justice to nurses who feel themselves unjustly treated by physicians, but would also give opportunity to members of the medical profession to enter complaints against nurses who, they have had reason to believe, are disloyal both to them and to their patients.

Such a joint board would have other uses. Plans for the care of the great middle class, for a sliding scale, etc., would naturally be discussed,

and suggestions be carried from one profession to the other for consideration at their state meetings.

These boards are already in existence in the majority of our states, the members are carefully selected according to standards fixed by law, their appointments are similar, and to utilize these for such a purpose would not add any amount of expense or new machinery, such as would be entailed in the appointment of new committees; and possibly such a tribunal, we whisper it with great caution, might lead to the establishment of a code of ethics which should apply to the mutual relations of the two professions, and loyalty to the nurse by the physician might be placed on the same footing as loyalty to the physician by the nurse.

We believe this plan for a conference on ethics would bring the two professions into closer unity and better understanding and would in every way promote the welfare of the patients served by both.

THE CONFERENCE ON INFANT MORTALITY

At the Conference on Infant Mortality held in New Haven on November 11 and 12, a number of well-known nurses were present, among whom were M. Adelaide Nutting and Annie W. Goodrich, of New York, Lucy C. Ayers and Olive L. Niles, of the Rhode Island Hospital, M. Grace Hills, district nurse of New Haven, and Emma L. Stowe, of the New Haven Hospital. There were about three hundred physicians in attendance and many men and women interested in the different lines of child saving work.

It was determined that all the efforts for the betterment of social conditions already in operation must be vigorously carried forward, that poverty with its attendant evils, ignorance and dirt, is the most direct cause of the infant death-rate, that alcoholism, the social evil, tuberculosis, heredity, and artificial feeding are also powerful contributing factors.

An association was formed for the scientific study of the causes and for the putting forth of greater efforts for prevention of poverty, crime, diseases, etc. The papers and discussions make valuable contributions to the literature on these various subjects and will be printed in full in the "Bulletin of the American Academy of Medicine," a bi-monthly magazine, beginning in February.

The special value to nurses of this conference would seem to be one of encouragement, of hope, that conditions so long familiar to hospital and district workers are at last receiving the serious attention of those people who possess the knowledge and influence necessary for their correction,—even although progress must necessarily be slow. Nurses have occupied an important place in the recognition of the causes and

will become now, with the new endowment of the school at Columbia, still more powerful forces in all the lines of prevention that may be developed, and there will be no lack of efficient nurse teachers when needed.

SOCIAL CENTRES

For a quiet unobtrusive city, Rochester has won an enviable distinction in several directions, and its citizens like occasionally to call the attention of the rest of the world to its creditable performances.

It first became known to the philanthropic world through the work of its health officer, Dr. Goler, in the control and perfection of the city milk supply. Next it made itself known as one of the progressive cities in the matter of children's playgrounds which are dotted through the city, in the school yards, parks, and city squares. Its most unique achievement, however, is in the matter of its social centres, and here it leads the country, having been foremost in establishing them and successful in conducting them. It is a matter of almost every-day comment in the local papers that some distinguished guest from afar is in the city investigating these and, as we go to press, even Boston has a representative here taking lessons in the art of gathering the people together.

A social centre, as the term is used here, is a neighborhood centre with the schoolhouse as its meeting place. Here, in the large assembly room, which is thrown open for such use, are held various club gatherings of men, boys, and girls, mothers' meetings, and mass meetings, where the neighbors of both sexes and all ages and nationalities meet, at least weekly, to hear some good speaker on a subject of timely interest, usually in the interest of good citizenship, national or local. Speakers are often brought from afar, and frequently the only opportunity that Rochester citizens of the more favored class have to hear some eminent man is at the social centre. It would be almost unbelievable to one who has not attended one of these meetings that crowds of rough men and boys, flippant girls, and hard working women can be so enthralled by a serious lecture and can discuss it so intelligently. When one thinks where these people would be spending their evenings otherwise, and when one sees the pride they all feel in the undertaking, she realizes what a power is here for the making of good citizens.

We do not wish to give the impression that it is all serious work; on the evening we last visited a social centre, the meeting was opened by singing, the words of the songs being thrown on a screen by a lantern, and after a lecture by Dr. Woods Hutchinson, although the hour was late, the hall was cleared of chairs by hundreds of willing hands for a basket-ball contest.

This is a work which could be inaugurated almost anywhere if the

co-operation of the school board can be obtained, for schoolhouses are standing everywhere, ready for greater usefulness to the community, and the people are ready to use them if shown how.

An interesting feature of the work in Rochester is that, though both the social centres and the playgrounds were started in the congested localities for the benefit of the poorer children, their benefit has been so obvious that schools in better neighborhoods are demanding the same privileges. The method of procedure in starting a new playground is that its equipment shall be furnished by private subscription, while its maintenance and the salary of the supervisor are undertaken by the school board.

MISS SNIVELY'S TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

WHILE all American nurses who have known Miss Snively will regret to hear that she has announced her retirement from her position at the Toronto General Hospital, to take place during the coming year, they will rejoice to know of the ovation that was extended to her upon the celebration of the 25th anniversary of her assuming the superintendency of that training school, upon which occasion the most distinguished citizens of Toronto assembled to do her honor. She was presented with a beautiful silver card-case incased in a suede bag, containing a note for \$1000, a gift from her graduates, and the announcement was made by the president of the board of governors of the hospital that, as a token of their esteem, the members of the board had officially decided to extend to her a yearly allowance of \$700 during the remainder of her life,—a most unusual and gracious act on the part of a hospital board and, so far as we know, unprecedented on this continent by its liberality.

Miss Snively has probably trained more nurses than any other woman. She has been identified, both in the United States and Canada, with all of the movements for raising the standard of nursing, having been a charter member of the training-school superintendents' societies of both countries. She assumed her duties at the Toronto General Hospital the day following her graduation from Bellevue. She has held no other position, but her energies have been concentrated upon the development of this one great school and the betterment of professional conditions for nurses in the Dominion of Canada. Her graduates are found the world over.

MISS DELANO'S WESTERN TRIP

DURING Miss Delano's trip to the Pacific Coast, the first part of which she describes in the official pages, she was entertained by the nurses of San Francisco, Denver, and Chicago, from all of which points we hear of interest being stimulated in the army service, the Red Cross, and the JOURNAL Purchase Fund, to all of which Miss Delano is giving

much thought and study. To quote the acting editor of the *Pacific Coast Journal*, the nurses met with the intention of entertaining their guest and found themselves being entertained by her.

On her return to Washington, Miss Delano found such an accumulation of correspondence and official matter that she is able to give only the briefest notes of her trip this month, but intends later to continue the narrative more fully.

It seems a happy turn of fate that Miss Davis and Miss Delano, who were long associated in hospital work in Philadelphia as superintendent and assistant, should now find themselves called to Washington during the same year, and so located that their windows are within sight of each other.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO NURSING LITERATURE

THE two new books of the month, "Bacteriology for Nurses," by Isabel McIsaac, and "Visiting Nursing in the United States," by Ysabella Waters, make very valuable contributions to the nursing literature of this country and should find immediate place in all of our training-school libraries.

Miss McIsaac's book is in the same binding as her "Nursing Technique" and "Hygiene" and contains in simple form as much of the scientific side of the subject as it is necessary for nurses to know, and the direct relation of bacteriology to the more important contagious diseases. To its suggestive schedule for laboratory work the author has given very careful study, which she intends shall be carried out in a well-equipped laboratory under the direction of a bacteriologist, but the class work is so arranged that it can be supervised by the nurse teachers. We feel that this book meets a great need in our schools, that it will be specially valuable to the boards of examiners of nurses and helpful to the nurse who applies the principles of bacteriology in her every-day work.

Miss Waters's book on visiting nursing has been looked for impatiently by many workers. Judging from the inquiries that come to our desk for information in regard to the organization and administration of this department of nursing, the book will have a great sale and be the means of giving new impetus to district work. Its appearance is especially opportune when attention is being directed to all forms of social service of which visiting nursing is the pioneer, by the endowment for its development at Teachers' College.

The production of such books, each an authority in its line, supplies another indication of our rapidly developing professional status.

THE NEW YORK REGISTRY MOVEMENT

WE want to call the attention of our New York readers to the mass meeting called at the Academy of Medicine, 17 West 43d Street, New

York City, January 4 at 8 P.M., for a thorough discussion of the central registry. This meeting is held under the auspices of both the county and the state committees and, next to the formation of the association itself, is the most important matter which has ever come up for discussion in the state. New York City is the greatest of our nursing centres, registry abuses abound, and this movement, which has for its aim the convenience and protection of nurses themselves, it is hoped will gradually lead the way to the establishment of a great central club-house or nurses' hotel which will solve the problem of living for hundreds of members.

TO COMMEMORATE THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MODERN NURSING.

At every annual meeting of the Associated Alumnae for several years past an earnest appeal has been made through the delegates to the various alumnae associations and also to the individual nurse, asking them to realize their responsibility in assisting to raise a fund sufficient to purchase THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING. The appeals have resulted in some contributions each year, so that we have gradually been acquiring JOURNAL stock. At the meeting in Minneapolis last June it was said that did *each nurse* in membership give *but fifty cents* towards the JOURNAL Purchase Fund, the total amount would be enough to buy the balance of stock and we would then own the JOURNAL. The result was that those present contributed so generously and enthusiastically that all felt sure could all of our members have been present the whole amount would have been raised. As it is, \$6500 are still needed and this is an appeal to the various alumnae associations and to those individual nurses who have not subscribed to do so now. 1910 is the jubilee year of modern nursing and to commemorate the event in America we are anxious to be able to announce, at the annual meeting in New York, the ownership of our nursing JOURNAL. This *can be done* if *each nurse* who has not already contributed will send fifty cents to our treasurer, Miss A. Davids, 128 Pacific St., Brooklyn, N. Y., or to any undersigned member of the Committee on JOURNAL Purchase Fund. Members may send larger contributions if any so desire; this would help to make up for those members whose addresses are missing.

(Signed) A. DAVIDS, Treasurer, 128 Pacific St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

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